

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 5 and 22 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. New claims 23-89 have been added. Claims 1-89 are pending.

The application stands objected to as not containing an Abstract. An Abstract has been provided. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The title has been objected to as being non-descriptive. In response, Applicant has amended the title. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claims 5 and 22. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejections have been obviated and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 11-13, 16, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0103687 to Kipling ("Kipling"). Claims 3-5 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kipling. Claims 9-10 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kipling in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,337 to Dietz et al ("Dietz"). Claims 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kipling in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,510 to McGovern ("McGovern").

In response to the claim rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kipling nor Dietz is a properly-citable reference against the rejected claims. The earliest effective filing date of Kipling is February 1, 2000. The earliest filing date of Dietz is May 14, 1999. As indicated in the attached declaration of inventor, Andrew A. Cullen III, the subject invention was conceived before May 14, 1999. Moreover, as indicated therein, due diligence was exercised from before May 14, 1999 toward a reduction to practice of the subject invention after May 14, 1999. In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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